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white appearance. The estimated width of the halo was about one-third or one-half the diameter of the planet. The body of the planet was intensely black (sometimes blue-black) and exquisitely defined.

I did not see the spot of light on the disc of *Mercury* observed by some at other transits, though some friends (without any knowledge of such a phenomenon) noticed such an appearance, although I could not see it, even when my attention was called to it.

The third and fourth contacts (owing to the agitation of the Sun's limb) were not so easily seen as the first and second.

The times were taken from an excellent Elgin watch, which I compared with the noon signal from the Naval Observatory, and are as follows :

1st Contact*	10^h	57^m	15^s	A. M.	E. S. T.
2d	10	59	08		
3d	4	11	02	P. M.	
4th	4	12	55		

WILMINGTON, N. C., December 10, 1894.

AN INTERESTING TRANSIT OF *JUPITER'S* THIRD SATELLITE.

By E. S. MARTIN.

A transit of *Jupiter's* third satellite, observed the night of December 27, was peculiar in some respects, though I have observed "dark transits" of this satellite before. The satellite and its shadow were on the planet when observation began, at 6^h 45^m, Eastern Standard time. The shadow was intensely black, round and well defined. The satellite, on the contrary, appeared of a dusky hue, its shape a long, irregular ellipse, the longer axis parallel to *Jupiter's* belts, and about one-fourth the apparent size of the shadow. I would have taken it for a spot on a belt, except for its motion. It preserved this shape, color and size, at least until 8^h 0^m, when I was unavoidably called away. The instrument was a 5-inch CLARK refractor, power 200; seeing very good.

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* Comparing my times of first and second contact with those obtained at neighboring observatories, I am inclined to think my watch must have been fast about 16s. The times of third and fourth contacts seem about right.

WILMINGTON, N. C., 1894, December 28.

(EIGHTEENTH) AWARD OF THE DONOHOE COMET-MEDAL.

The Comet-Medal of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific has been awarded to Mr. EDWARD D. SWIFT, LOWE Observatory, California, for his discovery of an unexpected comet on November 20, 1894.

The Committee on the Comet-Medal,

EDWARD S. HOLDEN,
J. M. SCHAEBERLE,
CHAS. BURCKHALTER.

1895, January 20.

THE IRREGULAR WANING OF THE SOUTH POLAR CAP OF *MARS*.

By W. W. CAMPBELL.

Every observer of *Mars* is well acquainted with the fact that the polar caps in waning do not preserve an exactly circular outline, and are not of equal intensity in all parts. The edges of the caps are sometimes exceedingly irregular, owing both to dark indentations and bright projections. Portions of the caps even become entirely detached, and remain as isolated bright points for several weeks. Moreover, dark regions and excessively bright regions within the caps are common facts of observation. It is certain that the melting of the caps is affected by local conditions; and it is very important to know whether the local conditions at any point are such as to retard or to accelerate the melting.

I have carefully examined the most important recent drawings